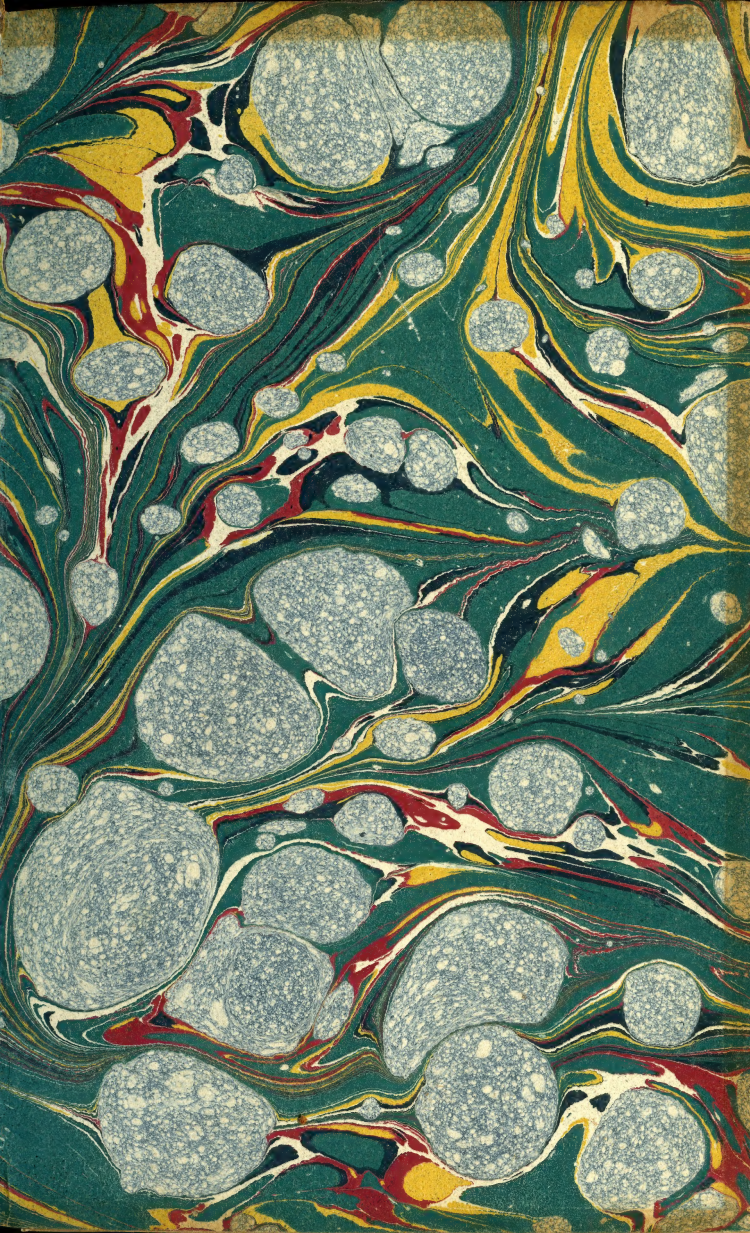

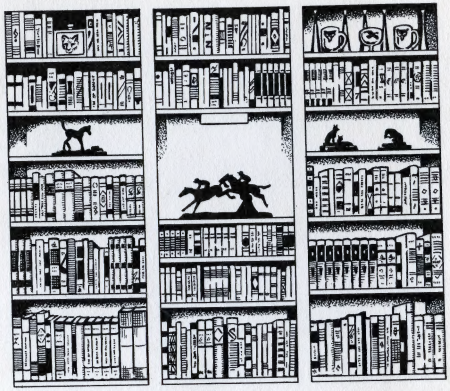

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A

TREATISE

ON

FIELD DIVERSIONS.

BY

A GENTLEMAN OF SUFFOLK:

A STAUNCH SPORTSMAN.

SHEWING:

1.—The Nature of the various Kinds of Dogs in Use for the Gun and Net.

2.—The most rational and perfect Method of training and breaking them.

3.—The Theory of Gun-Barrels.

4.—The most useful Instructions to young Sportsmen for speedily acquiring the Art of Shooting—containing also, other Matters of great Nicety and Utility in the sporting way.

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1823.

PREFACE.

THIS *interesting little pocket volume, being decidedly the best work on the subjects on which it treats, having for many years been out of print, and become very scarce; at the suggestion of several eminent sporting characters, of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, has been reprinted* VERBATIM *from the edition of* 1776.

The sportsman will find, in the perusal of the following pages, much useful and practical information, being the result of many years' experience with the dog, the net, and the gun.

SEPTEMBER, 1823.

A

TREATISE

ON

FIELD DIVERSIONS.

OF THE SETTER.

As it is unnecessary to inquire where this kind of dog originated, it may be sufficient to observe, that to *him* we are indebted for the *genteelest* enjoyment of the field, though not the earliest.

Hunting, undoubtedly, is the most *ancient*, as well as the most *noble*,

of all diversions. What necessity at first impelled to, inclination continued; and, from the *defence* and *support* of man, hunting became his exercise and amusement. Nets were soon invented, as essentially serviceable to destruction in the chase; and, in process of time, their application was extended from beasts of prey and venery, to the feathered tribe. David began his reign one thousand and fifty years before our Saviour; and Scripture informs us, that he reigned over Israel forty years. There is, therefore, sufficient authority to date this use of them, two thousand eight hundred years ago, in the days of Solomon. "Surely, in vain, the net is spread in the sight of any bird."

He mentions it, not as *new*, but *usual* practice; that every one was acquainted with, and might receive an instructive lesson and admonition from. This was *fixed*, *simple* independency. Their first auxiliary and inviter to travel, was the lowbell and lamp in the night; and it cannot be ascertained at what exact period the Setter relieved them from darkness, and called them forth to the daily honours they now enjoy under the politest patronage.

There are now various kinds *called* Setters, from their being appropriated to that service; such as between the English Spaniel and the Foxhound, ditto and Pointer,

and the pure Pointer simply by himself. Whim gave rise to the *first* cross, very probably; but most assuredly, indolence contrived the latter. None can have any just claim, however, to the appellation, but what is emphatically called, by way of eminence, *the English Spaniel.* The Irish insist—*their's* are the true English Spaniel; the Welsh contend—*their's* are the aborigines. Be that as it may: whatever mixtures may have been since made, there were, fifty years ago, two distinct tribes—the black tanned—and the orange, or lemon and white. In each class, I have seen the short, close coat, and the loose, soft waved one; with an equality of goodness under each

description and complexion. These kinds (especially the orange and white) are fond, docile, and spirited. Was I ever to break another dog to a net, I should prefer the highest hunter of that sort, to the reduced half breed by the Pointer, and engage to perfect him in less time. There is not that inequality of temper, as in the other classes of that species; and I challenge any sportsman to give an instance of *a full English Spaniel's* being sullen, after *proper* correction. Their attention to the whistle, and frequent looks for guidance from the hand, discover a ready and cheerful obedience, not to be equalled elsewhere.

Instances of sagacity appear in *all* dogs; that is—I mean, of *every sort:* and, although the *water Spaniel* stands professedly foremost here, the Setter is close at his heels. To a person not conversant with sporting dogs, many things sound of the *marvellous* in a rehearsal of their performances; and I doubt not, but sportsmen themselves have seen such manœuvres at one time or other, as nothing but ocular conviction could have forced them into a belief of.

Sagacity has too often been confounded with *docility*, though very different and remote. The first is a perfect, innate quality, that without

any *extra* assistance, by itself performs certain notable acts. The other is an aptitude in nature, to be led or trained to some degree of excellence, by progressive steps. The Chiens Scavants are but mere mechanical movers; and the water, or land Spaniel's going back for a stick, glove, or piece of money, is the pure effect of art in repeated lessons from the teacher. The quartering of ground and dropping in the Setter, proceed from the same source. But, when we see a dog (by some accident betrayed beyond his common set) slip back to his usual distance, that must be all sagacity—all self.

I have heard a gentleman, very justly distinguished for superior abilities in the setting profession, often declare, that he had seen it done by a dog of his own. And that another, of the same breed, would, if the covering was very low and thin (having shewn his point) try to hide itself behind a small bush, knot of fern, or the like.

Was I to choose one of this sort, he should be rather tall than otherwise; flat-ribbed, and longish in the back: for a dog, where speed is a principal requisite, must, as well as a horse, in the language of the turf, "stand upon ground." A gentleman, who resided some time

in Wales, tells me, this is a true description of their finest Setters. The short back, home coupled, is much admired by many. Do but observe how close he is put together —all of a piece throughout—that is the mould for a long day, &c. &c. But this is a vulgar error, exposed from daily experience. The quickness of his stroke, with a wanton stern, gives the *appearance* of speed indeed; but, if we note the space described in a given time, we shall correct our first opinion immediately. The same will hold good of

THE POINTER.

THIS kind of dog was introduced here in the beginning of the present century, and is acknowledged to be a native of Spain or Portugal; as many *were*, and yet *are*, brought to us from both kingdoms. The first I remember to have seen, was about forty years back. Black and white—heavy—slow—without any regularity in beating—under no command—but a NATURAL POINTER. The most general import was in the liver and white, especially mottled. They all fall under a parity of description, as to shape

and performance; nor can nature be much improved or assisted by art, as they have a ferocity of temper which will not submit to correction or discipline, unless taken in hand very young. The activity of our *modern* race of Pointers, we are indebted for, I presume, to the cross between the foreigner and our Setter. The mixture in this case was successful; as thereby we are furnished with a strain that will act in a greater variety of capacities than any other.

The Setter cannot be *degraded* into a Pointer; but the Pointer may be elevated to a Setter, though but of the second class. The Setter is there only of service, where there

is room to run a net, so must be hunted accordingly. *Whole* coveys are the just attention of the Setter. Birds sprung and divided, mostly drop in hedge-rows, where there is no liberty for action; or in turnips, where a horse must do considerable damage in advancing with the net. I am now in an inclosed country, it may be supposed;—but, in the champaign,—disturbed birds, before they are fully grown, squat directly upon their pitch; and therefore, a mettled vigorous ranger must run past many, in consequence. And, indeed, what is here observed of the English Spaniel, may be applied to the fleet Pointer. The *very* swift certainly miss *some*, that

a moderate galloper will pick up. But then—the attitudes struck in a moment, with such infinite diversification, in the stabs of a fast dog, are more than a compensation for some casual, unavoidable transits; and give a glow to the *true, keen* sportsman, that the sight of an hundred points, made by a dull-trotting, slovenly brute, in the common form, cannot call up.

I mentioned, *that a Pointer is of more general use than any other dog; and that he may be elevated to a Setter.* He answers the purpose, in one sense, it is certain; but, by way of humble imitation, at best. He insults the finished fine Setter

by invading his province; and, admitting game enough may be taken at him, it is the same as challenging a delicate Greyhound with a coarse Lurcher, because he can kill as many hares. The Pointer is serviceable in light coverts, as coppices, cars, or broom, with a bell on his collar, to direct the attention to the right quarter. I neither commend, or recommend, this method: only signify the *possibility* of the thing. I once had such a Proteus, as many gentlemen in the vicinity well remember, who would stand for a gun at one bird, drop for a net at another, and so on, as I thought fit. In covert, he would do the work of a brace of Spaniels. Take him into field directly, he was

as clean and regular in his hunting, as if he had never acted in a lower character. This supports my assertion, of general utility. Some will set the springing Spaniel in opposition to the Pointer; arguing, that more chances are had from the *former* than the latter, because they pass nothing, and so consequently must find more game. Allowing the first datum, the conclusion is by no means deducible. Suppose both on a parity of goodness in their different kinds. The Spaniel must not hunt faster than a man can walk up to him. A rating Pointer, moderately speaking, will beat four times the ground: and, if he springs or misses half, (which is, in a decent

dog, not to be imagined) still the balance of *find* will be on his side. The only advantage the Spaniel can have, is in strong furze: and there he must spring his game at great uncertainty of shooting, unless constitution and resolution drive in up to the middle; in which situation—*non equidem invideo.* There are many Pointers, which, by use, will stand woodcock very well. And I knew one of a very eminent physician, (Dr. Bigsbye) that, if she found in covert, unperceived, would give tongue for discovery; and *that*, repeatedly, till she was relieved from her point.

It is not my intention to depreciate the springing Spaniel, as being

of little or no consequence, for I am really a great advocate for that knot of slavery. And when I say, a Pointer may be made to do, and has done, such a variety of works, I still think it acting out of character, whenever he represents his *superior* or *inferior*.

There was a breed of rough Pointers introduced to Suffolk by the late Earl of Powis, from Lorrain, of which I remember a very few capital. Novelty, and the little satisfaction of deceiving and surprising strangers, were their chief recommendation. Sullenness, and a violent attachment to mutton, brought them into disgrace; and

they have been discontinued for many years.

THE SPRINGING SPANIEL.

THE cocking, or gun Spaniel, of *true, perfect* breed, is of one general or whole colour: either black or black-tan, commonly called King Charles' breed; or red, in different shades, paler or deeper; such as, in horses, we would call a blood-bay, or a bright-bay. I have known some (very rarely) absolutely so; without the admission of a different hair: though, for the most part, there is some white on the breast, and bottom of the throat. Coat loose and soft, but not waved. Back

broad and short. Legs short, with breeches behind.

There is great variety at this time, in different mixtures, of red and white, brown and white, black and white, grizzled, &c. Some, with a short, hard coat; others, with a waved coat, inclining to curl. But in all these pied or party-coloured, there is some tincture remaining, either of the Beagle or water Spaniel, that through distance of time, and passing from friend to friend, cannot easily be traced back.

I have bred puppies by a Beagle and Spaniel bitch, and the reverse.

But, by continuing the Spaniel to the females produced in that manner, to three or four generations, the Beagle has been entirely lost, as to tongue, carriage, form of hunting, &c. but yet retained the mixed colours. And I apprehend, such method might be continued many years, before the white was entirely bred out.

Was I a man of fortune, I should be a methodist in the kennel, as well as in the field. Not a party-coloured Spaniel should wear my name; or Greyhound, in short: being fully persuaded with myself, (whatever other sportsmen may conceive) that there is something of the Lurcher latent in the latter,

even under the most perfect shape. Probably, I shall touch lightly on that kind of dog, in some *after page;* therefore digress no farther in this place.

Mr. Mott, an old gentleman, called the Father of Sportsmen, had of this red strain, fifty years ago, that greatly exceeded: and at this present, there is a similar stock at Sir Joshua Vanneck's, superior to most. The same blood, is doubtless to be met with, in most parts of England; for it cannot be supposed, that all the gentlemen of taste are fagotted up in *Suffolk.*

Use, supported by *judgment*, will make any of these different sorts

good: therefore, do not *enforce;* only *recommend* to the choice, as being *true style*—appearing in character. It may, perhaps, arise from partiality: but, although there be *jades* of all colours, and so, *vice versa*, *good* ones, I own I discover somewhat of a *closer*, more inquisitive mode of hunting in these, than in any other. A spot on the forehead,—white tip are to many, matter of moment; so whenever I meet with a parcel of *pretty gay* spaniels held in high esteem, I allow *fancy*, as a succedaneum for something better, laugh in my sleeve, and trot on.

Where a passion for the diversions of the field cannot be indulged to

the extent of elegance and exactness, in all the several departments, for want of the *Primum Mobile;* we may come to a composition, relaxing a few degrees from the punctilios, and yet sport with decency and satisfaction—embracing, as it were, a woman instead of a goddess.

A multitude of dogs in each vocation, I would never keep, were my fortunes of the first water. To guard against accidents, I would desire to command more than a bare satisfaction of my regular occasions, yet not affect the character of a sportsman by the number of noses. When a man cannot do as he would, he must do as he can.

If he is, as the Spectator says, "but just within the verge of the act to knock down a partridge with his gun;" he must work by a more contracted scale, and endeavour to furnish himself with jacks of all trades. This, I hinted at in the *Pointer;* how many functions he may be trained to. And in the *Spaniel*—one third of the water breed (got by a second cross with the cocking Spaniel) will have the best effect.

In many places there are, within the compass of a few miles, fens, marshes, rivulets, &c. as well as woods and other coverts. *Here,* the mixture pointed out will effectually answer both purposes; as

myself for many years experienced. At the same time I was in possession of Proteus, I had also a Spaniel, that I do verily think, *never was equalled*. The declaration may seem rather presumptive: nevertheless, it can be supported by a multiplicity of living witnesses of veracity, whose incredulity has blushed at the sight of his performances. He was a *direct tripartite*—Hound, land Spaniel, and water Spaniel—black and white, tan-faced, with tan spots over his eyes, and soft loose coat. He would trail a hare indefatigably, with the nicest precision. No hedge-row or thicket too stout for him; and he would take the sea, in the cold of winter, for a struck fowl, as though it was

his only destination. Were those two dogs with me *now*, in this platonic age, although I am neither conjuror or philosopher, should not despair of meeting with a *Dionysius* —but, *not address him as Aristippus did.*

His fame made his stock much desired; none of which lived their sire over again: many, nevertheless, were capital in the opinion of their masters. Every man's Mantua is Rome, till he has seen Rome. Had goodness been inseparably united with name, there had been fewer sorry dogs amongst us. Even to this day, at the distance of thirty years, there is a *toy* in the list of every sportsman, from his honour to the rat-catcher.

If the designation be for *water only*, the best are had from a water Spaniel bitch, and the English Setter. Their spirit and activity much greater, than in the whole blood. Legs longer; coats shorter—not so susceptible and retentive of the element they traffic in. The mixture between the water Spaniel and the Pointer, also has good effect. Of this latter, I have seen many—of the former, I remember but one.

Whether I am on the side of majority or minority, I know not, when I declare, I think the derivation from the *male* greater than from the female; and should expect to improve breed from a *good* dog

and a *so so* bitch, sooner, and with more certainty, than from the contrary conjunction. *Many* dissent from me, I know; and perhaps *more than a few* subscribe my creed. *Matribus* Hædos will most surely be thrown in my teeth, by my brethren in opposition, as a clincher: but allowing him to be *the poet*, it does not necessarily follow that Virgil was a natural philosopher also. *Canibus* determines nothing; and I dare say, had his amanuensis put down a *P* instead of the *M*, the impression had stood. The judgment of our times runs directly counter; as is evidenced by the extraordinary premiums given for a ram of a peculiar delicacy in coat.

In support of my own hypothesis, I must mention a couple of puppies off an Hound, brought up in my parish: one of which proved an excellent Harrier; the other was the very picture of the Mastiff, where the bitch had been at walk.

This gives an opportunity to usher in a remark—how few are so attentive as they ought, to the female intended for breeding: either suffering her at large too *long*, or too *early*. She will admit a *favourite at home*, days *before;* and *after* a stranger would be suffered: therefore, I recommend by all means, *twenty-one* days' confinement, with key in the pocket.

Where the intrigue has been between two different kinds, as Mastiff and Hound, Spaniel and Beagle, &c. in opposites, we might, in a week or ten days, well distinguish the *true* blood from the spurious, would we but give ourselves a little trouble, or rather pleasure, and not leave so material a point to the discretion of a servant. But where it happens in the same tribe, and possibly in the same colour, I would destroy all, rather than bring up *one in hopes.*

Not only in the canine species, the predominancy of the male towards stock, shews itself, but also in the horse kind. A gentleman of my acquaintance, bred a colt from a

Suffolk hunter, by a racing stallion, which won several plates, beating some in high form; and, if I am rightly informed, there have been more under the same predicament.

As I partly promised to say something of, I shall here briefly touch upon,

THE GREYHOUND.

In the first place, I insist upon whole colours, save the throat or the breast. Black, red, fallow, dun, mouse-colour, blue, and the pure white; all with coats short, smooth, and soft as a mole's. The party coloured I cannot allow, or

the brindled. The highest title they can aspire to, in despite of their actions, is (in the florist's phrase) *Lurchers rectified.* In each of these you observe the stand-up ear—watching, wandering eye—crossing the beat before the horses, and other explanatory symptoms. But the greatest criterion, and most valued by woodland hedge-thumpers, is, the *feat curl* at the END of their tail. These usurpers of title are great killers; and, in a close, inclosed country, are very necessary for that purpose: but let them run under a proper name. After the first year, few run home in a match, but lie back, to take advantage at the turn from the leading dog. I have seen them (entire strangers

to the place) run foul in the second course, and swerve directly for covert, intercepting at her muse, the good old hare, that at fair footing would have beat them out and out.

The true Greyhound, besides in colour and coat, differeth also in *make* and behaviour when beating. He is longer in the leg and the back; not so wide on the loin, or thick in the gascoyn. Ears short and thin, lying close on his neck. Stern delicate, tapering; and (if in condition, and not under fear, or in hand) projects, almost in a line with the back, three or four inches from its base, when it falls into the

form of the bottom of an ○, describing an arch of a large circle.

I did not, at first, intend to expatiate on this article; neither shall I now descant largely upon it: but, as it is a growing diversion, strike out a few outlines only, leaving the piece to be filled up by an abler hand. Of all the colours before mentioned, I should not covet the *white*, on account of a natural tenderness. Indeed, the constitution of any of them is not so robust, as to enable them to shine under the ordinary attention, now so irregularly and improperly paid them. We may as well start a *Match'em*, or a King Herod, from turnips and

clover, as run a perfect Greyhound from the common coarse diet of bran and pot boilings, or flesh that almost creeps from him, on a dung-hill or cinder dirt.

To cut a figure in this department, is an expensive undertaking: and moreover, the purse must be assisted with judgment, or, no claim to laurels. There is a great deal in diet; as much in lodging; and not less in physic and exercise: which is not to be confined to the *sporting* months, but continued from August till the season ends with February; which, with the two preceding, complete the *coursing* period.

In the summer, these, and all else, should be kept low in flesh, with fresh water, daily renewed, impregnated with nitre and sulphur. If the weather admits of regular employ, all extra exercise is injurious. Airing sufficeth. In their business, the exertion is too violent to be supported more than *twice* a week.

The resolution in this creature is wonderful; sometimes terminating in death. His generosity unrivalled; leaving its game, without drawing blood very frequently, after such labour to possess it. If a dog has his share of the day, *two days* in the week ought to be his stint. *Twice* in the week, he will

run his *whole self; beyond*, is abuse and prostitution; driving him to meanness and foul play (to save reputation as he thinks) in giving in his quota. If I might use the phrase, I would say, it was forcing him upon the highway; *Quocunque modo, Rem.* An hour after sun's rising, and the same before setting, Greyhounds should be taken out, two or three miles; and in return, quickened gradually, till they are brought for the last mile, to what equals a rating hunter's gallop. I shall close with pointing out, what I presume is but rarely, if ever, practised in the management of this kind of dog. Take a brace of *equal* goodness; throw one into a cold bath twice a week, and

the equilibrium is destroyed in his favour.

No Greyhound should look at a hare till two years old.

Before I lay down any rules for breaking, I shall give some directions about

BREEDING.

Being once secure of a good strain, be very exact and curious in getting a proper dog for the cross. Pay no kind of regard to report; be satisfied from ocular conviction only. Look at *nature*,

not at *art;* and give preference to fine shape and symmetry. In the Greyhound, speed is the principal object; in the rest, a tender nose. Never let stock bitches be broke, strained, or hunted, but go at large; dog, the same. In the racing line, bitches are generally at full strength before they shew any impulse towards propagation; at two, three, or four years old; others, even later: and some, of very high blood, have been known to die maiden bitches. This humour does not run through the whole creation, 'tis true; but in the case before us, instances may be had. I should not make any objection to the *first* litter, according to the old notion: but prefer them to any after

puppies, when the dam has been hard run; though no visible injury discovered itself in weakness, surfeit, or any other way.

At three years old, I apprehend all dogs to be in their prime, and continue so (not being used) till six; during which period, I should choose to breed from them, and not after; unless upon the special occasion of keeping up a favourite stock, or getting into a new one superior to my own.

Where a bitch is kept only for stock, I admit the preference to a *second* litter; not that she brings forth better puppies, but is become a better nurse.

The pointer and spaniels frequently breed at nine months, before they have acquired their full strength or size, which gives them a stint; and a more sensible one, if the young lie at the teat six or seven weeks. Of such, I should think little; destroying them as soon as safety to the bitch would give leave, viz. eight or ten days. As bitches generally breed twice in a year, there is opportunity enough for rearing up a sufficient number afterwards for self and friends. It is observable, that bitches give suck, are heavy, or wanton in a critical time of need; and for this, as well as many other reasons, I never would *train* one, but keep solely for stock.

There are some that call themselves sportsmen, who prefer a bitch in the Greyhound, alleging, they are so quick at hand, turn so close, always with the hare, &c. as though distress to the poor animal was their only satisfaction; admiring puss on the saddle more than on the seat. I have known some of this complexion turn sullen at the loss of a hare, and threaten revenge the next day. Such knights of the spit cry up their curs in September and October; taking advantage of pregnancy and minority, and thereby *destroying* more hares in one week, than gentlemen, who take the field for diversion, *kill* in a month. Every one knows a bitch can turn shorter

than a dog; not as being a bitch, according to the rustic interpretation, but for the same reason that a child's play-coach is brought round sooner than a post-chaise. A young hare is *hurried* out of her life by such whirligigs, that would have shewn tolerable sport before a brace of sized dogs. Frequent dodgings at first rising, are seen to proceed sometimes from cunning, as well as from weakness. An old hare will, by sudden squatting turns, teaze and baffle these pressers at hand, till she can break to advantage; and then very likely goes off in a sheeps' path, bidding open defiance. These tricks have led the carcase-coursers into woeful disappointments and confusion of

countenance, when they have been in a champaign country with their female flash-aways.

Oft have I seen the leg turn'd over mane
With eye shot haste; and heard the wrinkled boot
Up hill of fern, or down the green-sward path,
Ratling press on, intent to save the prey
Unbroken, from the jaws of striving curs:
When, in a moment, at the well-known trunk
Of hawthorn, or confed'rate, sheep-clipp'd furze,
A tack she makes upon the overshoot,
And arrows it away to copse, amain.
Staring amazement, panting Toby stands;
Puss—and the bung-tail'd horse—both gone for goods.
Consume it, though—Oh lor! Oh lor! Oh lor!

If bitches *must* be trained, let more regard be paid to them; for certainly the present is very insufficient. They have not rest enough after their puppies are destroyed or weaned; which tells strongly against them. As soon as dry, and moderately tucked up, with a

decency of flesh, they are hurried into work, without any restoratives, before nature can possibly have recovered from the shock of parturition, and its debilitating consequences. It is therefore manifest, how many disadvantages the bitch *visibly* and *necessarily* labours under; and there may be other occult complaints, that do not break through to observation. But let every circumstance that can be desired, concur in favour of her, *cæt: par:* a dog will always beat her in extremity. Puppies fall too often in August, September, and October, and so have to combat with all the severity of winter, very few arriving at full stature without immense trouble.

Bitches should come in at the latter end of March; and not carry their whelps longer than the middle of May. These get strength with the sun; and by Michaelmas will have treasured up such fund of constitution, as will defy the menaces of the succeeding angry months.

Where a number of bitches can be supported, there is a probability that *some* may keep pace with our wishes: and I also conceive, that nature may be checked by low feeding, or encouraged and prompted by the contrary, so far as to cause a considerable alteration in the periodical revolutions of desire. It is by no means dissonant to reason, that a month's previous high keep

might effect, "*in tempore veni*," with the assistance of some stimulating philtrum.

Touching upon the Materia Medica, brings to mind, that "*I do remember an apothecary*," who gave me an historical account of a *breed* of Greyhounds *already bred;* and also a nostrum for raising another that never *was* bred. The *first* shew the company amazing sport, in numberless turns, for three or four miles; and when covert is close at hand—the odds greatly against them—a new-born elasticity, as it were, exerts itself in a moment. *Snap we go*—and the knowing ones are taken in. These dogs are called *Gamblers;* brought over

by *the Marquis of Nullibi, from Outopia.*

The *nostrum* has not, at present, obtained an *imprimatur* from *probatum est;* I shall therefore give it the reader, (in gallipot-latin) only as *experimentum plausibilum*, after the manner of Lord Bacon in his Centuries.

R.

Fox-hound dog and bitch, ana: M. F.—S. N.—Q. S.—This preparation produces Fox-hound puppies; from which, you must pick out two with the most longest legs, male and female. From these, breeding again, save again as before, till

you get the height desired. Whether the leg is to be lengthened each time, in arithmetical progression, or be quadruple of the former, in the abyss of attention, I forgot to enquire. If in the *former*, we may fix a standard at the second or third generation, probably. If the increase be as the *latter*, we may rise above par before we are aware, and so be forced to reduce by the cross of a short leg, making an jumbic mixture, that will not give an exact medium, very likely, in seven years' trial. When once happily hit on, they *are to* be—*will* be—*must* be, the very best Greyhounds in the whole world. Fire off with such monstrous vigour;

run such monstrous while, without any indication of distress, either by lingual extrusion, oral expansion, or alteration in the diastole; the usual symptoms where a diaphoresis is denied.

This digression pardoned, I reassume the subject, stock-bitches. A strict eye must be had over them at the approach of the expected fit; if *at large*, more especially so. The slightest notice, either by gestures or appearance, should be attended to; and a private clean lodging provided, where the dog should not be admitted before the fifth or sixth day. If he is a perfect stranger, it would not be amiss

to put a muzzle on the bitch, lest a coy snap might wound or destroy an eye, and be literally—male pertinax.

It is needless—nay, injurious, to continue the dog in confinement; repeating the visit three or four times is sufficient. As a proof and confirmation; a gentleman sent a bitch to my celebrated Proteus, that had only two lessons, and closely secured from every other, which brought forth eleven puppies.

Sportsmen, however high in station, should think it no disgrace to superintend such matters *themselves*. As I before some where enjoined,

I now repeat—on no account discharge the bitch from her apartment in less than twenty-one days. Gentlemen, *indifferently* curious, suffer their gamekeepers to take out a bitch, *durante furore*, under pretence of airing; when, in all probability, *Plush* falls into beer at some little hedge ale-house—the wanton slips out, and *fashions* it away with a *porterly mastiff*.

Upon these peripatetics, I cannot but animadvert, that, in *the general*, they are a set of abusive rascals, and a disgrace to the family that employs them. What adds to their petulancy, and swells their consequence to themselves,

is, their master's suffering them to take a gun, and shoot in the hail-fellow way. Admission to equality is a direct abdication of superiority —*quis cætera nescit?* Who ever saw a N——u, a R——s, a D——y, a D——e, or a H——n, in such centaurish copartnership! Gentlemen, it must be presumed, shoot for diversion and exercise; not for the sake of abundance of game, or the reputation of destroying it. Notwithstanding the vociferated zeal of such trusty fellows, I have known a new set of muscles purchased for five shillings; and free ingress and egress for half-a-guinea. Add to this, one consideration more—the quantity of game killed by those

mercenaries, in their daily parade of duty, that the master knows nothing about. I would never suffer a servant to carry a gun on his circuit, without my express command; and then, he should be limited to the immediate exigency of my table, or the super-request of a friend. If, at such times, he did exceed, for purposes of his own; better so, twice or thrice in a week, than making havock every day. His office is to nurse up and preserve the game; and his duty to detect poachers and night-men of different professions: for which discoveries I would reward him handsomely. All he has to do, is, to be positive to personal identity

in the offender; and the more quiet and private he is, the more likely he is to see and not be seen. But, to return. When a bitch is six weeks stinted, her body will drop apace, and she will soon be too big for accustomed narrow passage ways, and too heavy to leap over her usual heights of gates, pales, &c., when it will be prudent to put her into kennel. I once lost a very valuable Hound-bitch so, in attempting a partition of boards to get on some straw, where she constantly slept.

Besides the very possible, nay, probable contingencies abroad, a blow or a kick from an ill-natured

kitchen-wench, may prove of bad consequence. As soon as she has pupped, I would advise to lock up the litter with the dam every night, and not trust the key with any one; least, on some special consideration, a *habeas* might be granted. At a month or five weeks, by all means brand them, by way of distinction; and at six weeks, they may be weaned: but as the bitch is not wanted for business, the continuation for eight or ten days longer, would give them more strength. Before they are removed from her, they should be taught to lap, and eat small pieces of fresh *offal*, or *coarse* sweet food; for as you begin, it must be kept up; and

by setting out right, much after-trouble and expence will be prevented. Let the bitch be bathed for some days with verjuice or vinegar, not hot, but warmer much than milk from the cow; and not suffered at large till clean and tucked up, least by any accident the pendent teats should be wounded.

The place is next to be considered, to which they are to be put out. In Spaniels, indeed, it is not very material; but I should be very curious as to my Setters, Greyhounds, or Pointers. Most gentlemen seem fond of a farm-house; and, as to diet, I entirely approve of it, and also have an eye to the

plenty and renewal of clean straw in the yards and out-houses, which keeps their coats so sweet and clean. But, there are disagreeable circumstances attending, of some consequence. Boys, in general, whether sons or servants, are never better pleased, than when they can get a dog at their heels to go about the ground; and whilst they are pulling *turnips* in *one* field, the young dog is possibly pulling down a mutton in *another*, if old enough, and big enough. If no depravity shews itself, they get an early habit of smelling at hedge-rows, after blackbirds and hedge-sparrows; and as they grow strong enough to range the field, will purr and grub

a quarter of an hour or more, on a rod of ground, upon the haunt of a removed covey, or the works of a late morning hare; whence such bad habits are contracted, as are not easily removed.

A Greyhound, on a Sunday morning, gives fine entertainment to such youngsters; and not unlikely, but master may tacitly approve of the scheme. The temptations, therefore, to immature trials and straining of a young Greyhound, are too apparent; and I make no question, but many of my readers have experienced the truth of it themselves, or known it to have been the case with others.

A bit of poultry is killed—an egg sucked—or some other injury sustained in the perquisites of good woman; the 'squire's dog, if not made away with, is directly clapped up on chain; where, besides the neglect of food, which is but too common, the poor toad treads the area of his own filth, week after week, with little variation of attitude, either couchant, or sitting on his breech from morn till night.

The muscular system can be but partially and imperfectly employed; whence rickets, sitfasts in shoulder, distorted elbows, broad flat feet, &c. &c. For proof: apply to Mr. T——n, Theberton, Suffolk. As

to the pretence that servants, or any else, make by way of excuse, that the dog *would* follow them, and that they did not see him till at a certain place, is nothing but stuff. *One* good licking, with get you home—get you home—is a specific. I could, when I had dogs of every denomination, call out *any one* by name, from all the rest, either on my horse's back, or on foot; and not another dog should so much as look through the gate. Having shewn the necessary requisites in a walk for a puppy, namely, plenty of wholesome food, and clean lodging, and no gossiping about, I shall leave every gentleman to choose places, to himself seemingly most proper; observing,

at the same time, that, if my purse would give consent, I would never put out a single dog, but assign them a careful attendance within my own paddock, till old enough to be broke. I confine myself *wholly to dogs;* therefore, use no nota bene, that the bitches come to hand soonest, and may be entered at eleven or twelve months; which gives an introduction to the method of breaking

THE SETTER.

There are two seasons, at which these dogs, as well as the Pointers, *may be put under tuition;* but only *one* whereat they can be perfected

and made fit for business. The age ought to be near eighteen months; and the puppies that were brought forth from the middle of March, to the middle of May, will be fit for trial by the middle of August. They who will rear up whelps at any time with indifference, may find it necessary to take them in hand in pairing season; but then, they should consider the nature of the work they undertake. There is as wide difference between the language of April and September, as setting the saddle on a colt's back, and riding him a match. It is very common, and sometimes absolutely necessary, on account of age, to be doing with a dog in the spring;

but it can reach no farther than barely initiating him. We must work now in the negative only, except in one article. We can tell him, he is not to go off without the word or signal given—drive through one field into another—chase larks or crows—run at sheep—and so on, as is usual with most young folks of spirit. He may be taught to quarter his ground, and know his game; and that is the utmost I would aspire to. Take or kill game to him, we may not; and to pretend to stop him, or make him drop, (which is the first check that startles him) and not be able to shew him the reason by the reward, is to me but child's-play. *Est aliquid*

progredi tenus, say some:—but it answers little purpose say I, *si non datur ultra*. If we cannot go through stitch, it is idle to begin; because it is begging a trouble that must shortly be gone through with again. Every one taking his own season for tuition, the pupil, whether domestic or alien, should be confined a week or more previous to that time; not in common kennel, but chained in an airy situation, well defended from the weather above, with plenty of clean straw within. The breaker should look to him frequently; and though he does not condescend to the drudgery of the pail, ought to give him a tit bit in his way—stroke his head—

stand or sit by him awhile—and talk familiarly to him in the style of the field; cherishing him with—good lad—good boy, Rover—good fellow—adding a short sentence of cold pudding. In a day or two, we may give a tol tol guess at his temper; to which we must adapt our behaviour, in our future transactions with him. The same lesson serves for Pointer as well as Setter; although the evenness of temper in the latter commences an immediate intimacy with his master, that is not so easily confirmed in the oddities of the former. In the Pointer, some are sullen; others, meek—neither of which would I take any material pains about, because a spice will ever remain, and

sometimes throw a damp upon the warm hour of expectation, with a select party. A sudden pet sends one home; and a misunderstanding of your meaning fixes the other at your heels. A dog of fire will pull hard at chains' end, upon sight of you; gladden, and stand almost erect; with other demonstrations of eagerness to be with you. As the familiarity increases, we may elevate the voice gradually, till we rise to the key of actual exercise: which I always did upon chain, tossing him now and then a bit, to assure him all was well. I have spoke to young dogs in this manner, as sharp as if in real service, feeding them at the same time; so

that, at the first letting them off to range, I could bring them (to the surprise of many who knew not the secret) with a bare—*here again, lad*—from the remotest part of the field, in an instant, like one that had been a month in training.

At a week's end, lead him out, and keep him close to your foot: if he attempts eagerly to get on beyond the rate of your own walk, pulling so as to fatigue the arm, give him three or four snatches, with all your force, but speak to him, at the same time, in sounds of friendship—Rover—come back—come in, then—come—good lad—stop and reward him; walk on and

do as before. Such treatment will soon break him of these strivings, and be a good foundation for forwarder lessons. When the chain has brought him to a proper habit in walking near your side, the next day let him loose with his collar on; and after having emptied himself, and gambolled a ring or two, call him *in*, gently and mildly; take him into some highway, the more sandy the better, as not retaining any scents. If he shews a desire of enquiry, at gate, stile, &c., by no means suffer it, but call immediately to order; and, upon compliance, give him his reward. A tin canister is the properest vehicle;

which should be stored with pudding, or liver boiled hard, and cut into bricks. Neither of these will give offence to the pocket or hand, as cheese will. Bread has not moisture enough, if well baked; and if it is slack and doughy, it sticks to the fingers in delivery. Never toss it to him, but give it into his lips, and make him take it as tenderly as may be.

Though we may walk out with a brace together in this manner, it is by no means allowable to hunt them so. As the Setter runs solus, he should never be put in company, under the notion of getting courage from his fellow; for the

English Spaniel has fire enough without a prompter, and always ranges freely from the very first. In an inclosed country, where the boundaries do not include more than six or eight acres, an active strong young fellow may, by hard labour, keep a dog to his work; but in the *fieldings*, the very attempt would stamp him to me an ignoramus. In the champaign, where the Setter has room to display himself, a footman must contract his beat, or can not be near enough to see and be certain in the distinguishing between a real fault and a misfortune. Upon this rock, many a poor John has split, and numbers of dogs been ruined. To cramp a high ranger

in his career, is cutting off his finest blossom, and leaving him only the bare name, without the power of action to support and dignify it. As it is the indispensable duty of every breaker to attend closely and calmly to every motion of his pupil, a horse is evidently necessary, to enable him for the task, which must be qualified accordingly. *Free*, and yet steady—fly at the touch of the heel—and stop at the word of command, or drop of the rein; and when quitted, never to go far from the place. This is not an ideal nag; I have such an one at this time; and they are in the studs of every sportsman of consequence or taste, I dare say. These are most material requisites—because we should

always be at hand, at the commission of a fault, that we may challenge him with it that very instant, to his face. Thus provided with horse, and having reconciled the young dog to obey the terms of reclaim without fear, take him into the field; choosing an afternoon rather than a morning, that he may not be diverted from his proper game, by catching upon hares or rabbits that have made late work. Let it be more especially remarked, that he should be hunted with a muzzle, till the danger of sheep-chasing is over. It may be made large enough for free respiration, and yet not give liberty to break, so as to get blood, should he by chance run

one down, before he could be beaten off. Little regard is to be paid to his behaviour, as to forming any judgment, for three or four times going out; though some will cry up a dog at first sight, as a most amazing galloper, not discerning between *hunting* and *running*. There is as wide difference, however, as from a horse's breaking away with his rider through thick and thin, and rating in obedience to the hand and heel. I have known some high-mettled youngsters, at the entrance of an inclosure, hurried into a pond or pit; and remember such an one of my own once made a descent of about twelve feet. A dog must expect to *find*, before he can be

said to *hunt;* and until he shews a preference to a particular feather, and sticks to it, it is absurd to check him. I would always reward and encourage a young dog for chasing his *proper* game; which is, indeed, the only method to fix him from the trifling amusement of larks and small birds. It is to be supposed, that no kind of language has as yet been made use of, but free indulgence given to those freaks. As soon as his attachment is confirmed to the proper object, it is time to begin to enforce it. Here, lad—'ware chase—and if voice is not sufficient, add a smack or two of whip, which will do the business. Upon his return, drop or secrete

the whip, and call in mildly—here, lad—come in, then—'ware chase—good boy—and a bit of pudding. Never suffer him to get back to the haunt, but quit the spot immediately, to beat on fresh ground. A few rebukes in this way, with *civility* after, will settle this point.

There is great beauty in quartering the ground well; and I must confess, I never saw many that did it to my satisfaction. Some hunt in circles; *behind* you, as well as *before* you—some take a stretch quite around the field—whilst others describe as great a variety of figures, as are to be met with in Euclid or Pardie. This is the most laborious

part of the business, and cannot be properly executed on *foot*, as before observed. The range of a dog, in an inclosed country, is determined by the fence: whereas, in open, extensive fielding, he must be confined to certain limits, according to his speed, that there be no waiting for his passages every time, which is not very clever in a brisk day, under a gentle sweat. Let the scene lie in either place, a breaker ought to be half way, before the dog is arrived at the extremity of his beat; and should always keep in the centre of his hunt, to make him describe equal distances on either hand. Being in the middle of the spot intended to be beaten, the

master should walk briskly forward, (as soon as the dog has passed him) some fifteen or twenty yards, according to the strength of the breeze, more or less; and be ready, when he has reached his *ne plus*, to call him over fresh ground: otherwise, should he keep his stand, the dog will be apt to beat up too close to him, and return almost in his old tract, or clear but little ground. Suppose the allowance to be sixty rods: it is requisite a man should be *thirty*, when he demands his turn. As he crosses, he should be cherished and encouraged with—hey on, good lad, &c. which will send him to his land's ends, or

required lengths, boldly, and without cutting short. Some dogs, I have remarked, that would lead out one way, and turn in the other. This arises from the breaker's keeping at one end of the work, where, only, he can give a true direction: whilst, at the other, the dog is by himself, entirely at liberty to do as he likes. I have taken notice of others, that would make their turns right; yet, when they came near on their passage, would sink and get behind, not choosing to pass in front. This arises from fear, by whatever way occasioned. To remedy which, when you perceive him beginning to swerve, face about

upon him directly, and speak to him in friendly voice—hey on, good lad, &c.; and when he finds he cannot get out of your eye, and that no danger or displeasure is incurred by a direct passage, his fears will cease, and his beats be made with propriety and freedom. It must be understood, that he has been previously taught to drop at the word, by gradually and gently pressing him to the ground; crying —down, Rover—down—rewarding him when couched, and minding to pull out his fore feet, that his legs may lie straight and handsome, supporting his head with his nose, in a direct line to his toes. Nothing can be done without pains:

and the oftener he is tutored, the sooner will he reward your labour. This piece of duty is to be enforced when on chain; and in a few days, by frequent repetitions, he will readily obey the order, in assurance of a recompence.

Now, for STOPPING—which is not to be done in haste; but with discretion, as some folks marry. It is easy to see when a dog goes to his birds, by tacking directly; if on a side wind, stiffening and feathering his stern, with head aloft, &c., the same expressions of body (strange term) are given, when the game is full in his nose. The instant you perceive him *find*, tell

him of it, by—good lad, &c. The moment the birds are up—to order —here lad—come in—good lad— —have a care—good lad—and reward him. Never follow the sprung birds; but try for a fresh covey that are traversing the lands, and by their continual motion, give the dog a fairer opportunity of finding. If he continues to spring, treat him in the same manner; sharpening the terms of rebuke, but not coming to blows. In a day or two, according to the number of chances, (which depends upon the quantity of birds) you may form a better judgment for farther proceedings. If he still persists, although the *words* be the same,

the *delivery* must be rougher, and more sternly *yet* pronounced, as he creeps on in advance. Have a care, Rover—Rover, have a care—Rover—Rover. If he looks back, it is a sign you have been a note above Ela; in which case, to prevent his forfeiting his game, which soon settles in a confirmed blinking, recourse must be had to lenitives—good lad, &c., to secure him from turning tail. This is a sufficient acknowledgment that he *fears* you: all that you can do more, is to take care that he *loves* you, which can only be effected by moderate rebukes, and conciliatory rewards. *Patience* and *practice*, now, will do the business.

On the contrary—if he pays no regard to chidings, but will run in, deaf and resolute, *at him directly;* take him up—drag him back to the place where you first challenged him, making him, *down close,* by bearing hard on his neck with your foot, crying, Rover—Rover—have a care, then—down, then—which must be accompanied with a smart stroke of the whip, and repeated four or five times, but not with too heavy a hand. Forbear the whip, now, but keep him down, under the repetition of the cautionary terms, softening by degrees. Pause here awhile; say nothing to him for the space of half a minute; then shift

your foot on to the chain, at such distance, that he may have liberty to raise his head: call to him—good lad, then—have a care—come, then. If he licks his chaps at your speaking, it is a good symptom of shame for fault, and forgiveness of correction. Make a step back; if he follows the foot, creeping close on the ground, we are coming on apace. Encourage him to rise, by offering him a reward; which, however, you are not to give him, before you have told him of his fault in the most mild manner—have a care, Rover—come, then. If he seems fearful to take it, stroke him on the head, with—here, my good boy, &c.

Give him, in the same manner, four or five pieces, till all fears of farther correction are over; then, if he attempts it, suffer him to set his feet upon your breast—a certain indication of a good temper. The greater the obstinacy, the severer the correction. And, if notwithstanding he should still continue refractory, give him a full, round trimming in the field, with language prescribed; lead him home—teazing him by frequent tugs and snatches; taunting him with—oh! you brute—have a care—down, then—hang such, &c. Put him in a separate place, quite remote from all others; and so chained (for by no means must he be at large in

the kennel) that he cannot skulk, and hide himself from sight. Let an indifferent person feed him, if it can so be; but let the breaker go to him as often as time allows, and jeer him with the point of the finger—how you look, you brute! —have a care, Rover—down then, &c. Let this method be followed a day or two, and then abate by degrees: let his teacher feed him now himself, and stay with him. After due penance, and a perfect reconciliation, take him to the same place, and at the same time of day; when, very probably, the birds will be as before. The locality will awe him in a surprising manner: and I have actually seen dogs,

more than once, slacken from their rate, and draw at the old spot, though there was not a bird in the field. This is the method I ever invariably pursued, and never failed of carrying the point, under the influence of this last *grand coup.*

When he is somewhat steady at his birds, so that you may walk some few rods to him, endeavour to get immediately in his face, without hurry, and shew your approbation by—good lad, &c., stepping sideways, ten or fifteen paces, backwards and forwards, at about the distance of twenty yards. Never give your back to him; least,

in that moment of absence, if I may so call it, he should give a dash. The eye is a great check upon a dog; and he that does not now think so, may easily be satisfied from experience. And besides we can not otherwise be positive, (as we ought) whether birds or dog were first in motion; so, consequently, can not possibly tell in what manner to treat him under the uncertainty of circumstance. Correcting falsely, is doing what we can not easily undo: and encouraging a fault, is undoing all we had done before. By watching him so strictly, we may discover even his *intention*, from certain gestures;

such as the motion of a foot, or raising the shoulder, variation of stern, &c.; and by an instantaneous crack of displeasure, frequently suppress it. If the birds should rise at the sudden exertion, it may not be at all amiss, as he will very probably charge it to his own impatience; there is, however, a very fair handle to tell him it was so. As often as he does spring, or occasions it, by forcing to words of clamour to check his advance, so often must he be taken back to his proper distance, and corrected, according to prior instructions. A young dog that will bear a minute at his first beginning to stop, and enjoys his birds, does very well;

and I would not tempt him, by demand of longer trial, but spring them myself; and reward for not doing, instead of chastising for having done amiss. Special regard must be had, that he does not stir a step after his game, though he follows them with his eye; which fondness, by familiarity, will wear off.

Although I should wish my dog to stand a short space, that his point may be the more easily distinguished, yet I would have him drop at opening the net; not only because it is peculiarly and eminently characteristical, but also removes all apprehensions of an advance afterwards.

There are some of another stamp, that will find and own their birds; and then, with all the calmness imaginable, go to creeping and dodging, till they poke up every bird. Such puritans deserve the severest trimmings. My patience could never hold out beyond the second spring; but, at him—on to string with him—flog him heartily—and home him; never explaining a perverse temper by a foul nose. By these proceedings, a dog will soon be brought to behave with steadiness enough for the introducing the net, with which he ought to have had some acquaintance before, least the novelty of the sight, together with the quickness of the

approach, might throw him into some apprehension, and cause him to get back from his distance, if not altogether forfeit his birds. *This*, from experience. And indeed I have seen the very contrary effect, according to the temper and spirit of the patient.

If it is not *common*, there can be no harm in opening a net before him, now and then, and making it up again; speaking to him cheerfully the mean while, and tossing him a bit occasionally. When you draw to a fair set, never be rapid, for reasons immediately preceding. It is better to *hope* for success, than *covet* it, right or wrong. *One*

bird *caught amiss*, does more injury to a young dog, than twenty accidental or suffered escapes. If a dog advances a single inch after the net is on flight, I would drop it in a moment, and call to order, whatever became of the game. It is very idle to be in a hurry with young folks: give time to see if they will fix themselves; the breaker may fix them improperly. A dog does no hurt, unless he springs; then is the time to rebuke, and not before. The *dog only* must be the judge of his own distances; to check, therefore, whilst he is fairly and cautiously drawing, is driving him from himself, and giving directions to the creature you should

expect to receive them from. A dog, *once* stedfast, should never vary afterwards, in my opinion, (I mean, self-fixed) on any account. If he did, though I was certain it was in my power, by a brisk push to be before-hand with him, I would not do it. A dog *once well broke*, is *always* broke, in the hands, and under the eye of judgment. To aim at taking game, whilst the dog is imperfect, is the way to have him, *ever* be so. Every time we run the net, to keep roaring out—down, you!—down, you brute!—is very fine, to be sure. It may not disurb a pheasant, quail, or young chick partridge, in September; but in October, November, &c., when birds are arrived at

full plumage and strength, very few can forbear being moved at the sweet sound. Some may endeavour to invalidate and ridicule this dogma, by observing, that the old ones are in full strength; and from *them* the covey receive their instructions as to motion, *their* rise being the signal. It is well known whence the alarm is given: but such is instinct and the force of nature, that we see the parents, fearful to expose the infant brood, lie to the last extremity, and acquire courage as the *other* do strength. After a dog has been often disappointed of his reward, and met with the contrary treatment, he will be wearied out, and suffer a due delivery of the net;

which, in the beginning of the season, may possibly, with caution, be dropped so lightly, as not to disturb. This would be a lucky circumstance, as giving an opportunity of getting between the net and the dog; which, however, should be done calmly and softly. At the spring of the birds, you will then be near enough to prevent his dash; or, if he should be too nimble, you will be upon him the instant he seizes a bird. Back with him, and make him down close, rather angrily than not; but not *very*, as before shewn. If he should not rush in, let the birds remain in the meshes, as long as they strive. If he discovers an eagerness to be

more closely connected, a shake of the whip, with—*down then, good lad*—will stop proceedings. You must then offer him his reward; but it is a chance whether admiration will be at leisure to accept it, especially if a dog of fire. Curiosity sufficiently satisfied, he probably will attend to the premium, which should then again be offered him. Whilst thus engaged, an assistant should take out a bird or two privately, and conceal in a bag or his pocket, when, on a sudden, he may thrust his hand with it under the net, where it is most free, that it may rise and give a fresh surprise. Being prepared for prevention, by putting your finger

through the ring of the collar, a repetition of this manœuvre may be made. Kill a bird, and lay it at the edge of the net: not throw it to his nose, as is common practice. This puts a dog too critically to the test, and almost forces him to appear either a fool, or worse. He may deem it a taunt, and turn from it abashed, or gripe it in his jaws as proffered spoil. Reason speaks plain in my favour in this case. A list in opponency should not alter my sentiments; nor will I mind a rockstaff, though in the hand of an old nun. Let the game lie on the ground till the net is made up, that he may enjoy the sight of it to the end of the ceremony.

Frequent exercise will afford sufficient opportunity for such repetitions of this lesson, as will forward him beyond the necessity of whip or words, other than of approbation. In *training*, both are absolutely necessary, the first yielding gradually to the latter: but I can never allow that dog to be perfect that requireth either. The whistle only is requisite, and the waft of the hand. Smacking and cracking away, with —*here again, lad*—is more like fox-hunting than setting; which, as it is the neatest and genteelest diversion of the field, should be pursued with that easy, polite attention, unknown to the votaries of the severer exercises.

It has this *singular pride*, that it can entertain the ladies without the least imputation of indecorum; and I have known a sporting female spread a net—*not in vain*. Although, as I just now observed, no *noise* is to be made, yet not such peremptory silence is enjoined; but soft things may be said tete-a-tete. The chase and the gun cannot expect such delicacies in their suite. It would make one's flesh creep to see a daughter of Diana pitch upon her head. And besides, the shrinking of the thought, at defiling lilies and roses with sulphur and charcoal—some limbs of the lock and its proximity might raise transferable ideas. I shall next consider

THE POINTER.

AFTER perusing the former pages, some may think this a repetition; altering the *name*, but retaining the same mode of tuition. The initials are alike in *both*, I do admit, and the several processes, till the continuation of discipline, beyond that point where we leave the Setter, opens a new field, and engages us in fresh undertakings. The Pointer, as well as the Setter, is broke from chasing, we will suppose; to which the sight of the game had hitherto been the only stimulus. *Now*, although he will bear the whirl and departure of the birds with patience, it is more than probable, the

report of the gun will agitate him into a forgetfulness of duty, and urge to pursuit. Call in according to constitution of temper; and if sounds of anger will not affect his ear, have recourse to the whip, and smack away stoutly, never waiting for a spontaneous return, which will but encourage him to play the truant, and persuade him to think himself his own master. When got in, keep him close to your side till you have loaded, when he may be sent off again; and if the consequence is the same as before, give him correction, gently, under the terms of revocation. This point is very soon gained by remembering this instruction. Faults of this

nature are committed when we miss, or kill in a contrary direction to the dog's eye. If a bird falls in open view, his career is stopped at once. In which case, do not too hastily and rigidly interrupt him; observing, however, not to suffer him to tear or gripe too furiously. To remedy so bad a faculty, have a bird in readiness, pierced through with two pieces of knitting-pins, equal almost in length to the diameter of the body, crossing each other at right angles: drop it in such manner that he may catch upon it, either by scent or sight, and when he is driving at it, cry out—ah! ah!—not so violently as to prevent his laying hold; and I

engage he is cured without a repetition. Having brought him to come in, and abide by your side till fresh orders are given for beat, we may pronounce him, with such qualifications, a good *single* pointer.

The finishing stroke is—to make him stop at sight, and back the *find*. Hitherto he has been alone: now, some caution, and not a little, is to be taken in choosing a proper dog to whom he must give heed. One with a thick foul nose, it must not be, because subject to point false. Neither such as keep their stern in motion, and will not stiffen, although they are sure to themselves: because, to back a dog,

(or indeed to any person in the field, who has not been acquainted before) he seems to shew a diffidence, and stand in a state of uncertainty. If the pupil runs into the false dog, the moment he passes him, or gets up to him, he gives up his point, and goes on with his beat. This will soon bring him to be disregarded by his young companion: so that, if he chances *really* to have game at his nose, the other will not give him credit, but rate on, with scarce bestowing a look upon him. The *certain*, though rolling stern, upon the advance of his fellow, shortens his vibrations apace; as if jealous of, or disdaining, a follower to confirm his stop:

and stiffens into prior assurance. The young dog, at coming up, gets the birds in his own nose, and stands at scent, not at sight. The satisfaction will recommend his senior to increasing respect, and he will be every time more cautious in his approaches; so that, if he falls in with nose or cheek, if he does not obey directly, it is more than probable he will not drive on, but rather sink, and draw up behind, in expectation of a share in the enjoyment. The case will be far otherwise, if the thick nose be in question, though right; for having proved him before, he considers him almost as nothing, and gallops upon him to his face, with a sneer,

as it were, till the covey rattles about his ears.

Many will back at the second or third time of going out, but they are of a flat nature, and generally turn out *mere watchers*, that never strive to stretch ahead, as the sailors say, but content themselves with a negative goodness. Such are of no kind of service in company, only thickening the porridge, and adding to the parade. Singly, they may be useful dogs.

One of high mettle will be for running up, and must be suffered to do it some few times, to satisfy

himself of the meaning of the attitude. I have pointed out what the impropers are: shall now give a description of the requisites in a proper, to train others by. He should be of two or three years hunt — tender nosed—bold in point—without the least motion. That is, in short—he should be as complete as we can find one. His name should be as distant in sound, as may be, from the other's. Many are the advantages resulting from the observation of this maxim: in the very instance before us, particularly. You can encourage the old dog, and rebuke the young; which will be elucidated in the sequel of instruction.

A dog that will draw up to his fellow, or near enough to catch the effluvia, and no farther, does not incommode or disappoint of a shot: but, there is not that grace—that beauty—that elegance—that *je ne sca quoi*, in a group of Pointers packed together within a rod of ground, as in the same attitudes severally dispersed, sympathising from different quarters. We look at *one* doing duty *here*, and conceive others elsewhere in service, to which the eye can vary in a moment; so that, paradoxically, the pleasure is multiplied by division. PAN, before us—SCAPE, on the right—STAV, on the left—it may be said by the injudicious, are *all*

and *each but Pointers;* that SCAPE, in PAN's form, is but PAN over again, like the GLACIERS in SAVOY. But the beauty arises from the consideration, that the same visible effect is produced from two different causes. The dog that *finds*, is affected into attitude by his *nose:* the *backer*, by his *eye*.

The name of the old dog, I have said lately, and that of the young one, should be as wide as possible in sound; for by that means, we may gladden and confirm the *one*, and at the same time attack and rebuke the *other:* which cannot be done so securely, under too near an affinity of expression, which gets yet nearer by the exertion of voice.

For instance—the name of the *find*, is CARLO: the name of the young dog, PARDO. As soon as he catches the old dog, either he runs up full drive, or consents for a moment or so: then approaches in a trot or brisk walk, faster or slower, but in good form. This is to be corrected into an absolute local stop; which can no other way be effected, than attacking him with a vehemence equal to his hurry, PARDO —PARDO—oh! you brute—PARDO, take heed. Yo-ho, &c., &c. The repetition of PARDO, in such angry accents, may very probably affect the ear of the old dog, and throw him into some confusion, that may relax the beauty of his point; from

which you cannot relieve him, without confirming the other in his roguery. For—good lad, CARLO—good old lad—good CARLO, boy, &c. applied to the old, the young one may personate to himself as words of comfort, and keep on the advance accordingly. Thus, the antidote becomes the poison. Substitute PERO for PARDO. But first—let this maxim be always remembered: *to acknowledge and speak to the find, the instant you perceive it.* Yo-ho, CARLO—good lad, CARLO: and you may venture to take greater liberties with his patience afterwards; at the same time giving notice of the point to the young

dog. PERO, we will say then, is now the name of the pupil. If he is impatient—after siding with the senior, first, you may—PERO, have a care—take heed, PERO, &c.—then directly smooth up the old fellow, with—good CARLO, &c. alternately. The clamour may cause the birds to rise, which will be a lucky circumstance, as giving grounds for commencing hostilities. Run to him—take him on string—give him three or four smart lashes—PERO, take heed—yo-ho, PERO, &c. Take him back with twitchings, to the very spot where his disobedience gave occasion for calling to him; and then, facing about to the haunt, make him down,

angrily: threaten the blow, but give no actual correction. Make friends—but continue on hip, till the old dog has found again. The address to the point will make him give a look-out: as soon as his eye is fixed, speak gently—take heed, PERO—yo-ho—good lad, &c. After a little pause, let him off. Slip or drop it from your hand, and step some few yards on one side: encourage him with—good PERO, lad, till he is emboldened into form. Look hard at him, and retreat sideways towards the point, so that the view may not be obstructed. Should he attempt to approach, you are always directly

in his face—observe, and may advance upon him in a moment, with words of forbiddance. As soon as he obeys, fall back as before: and so, *toties quoties*. When you go up to spring, do it in such direction as is most likely to drive the birds towards the young dog. *One*, however, will be sufficient. Give it as much distance as you can with safety, that it may drop to his advantage. Let him enjoy it with decency—ease it from him—clear his mouth from feathers—and reward him from the pocket.

Though he waits with all imaginable steadiness, to your entire satisfaction—even when you expect the rise of the birds every pulse

of time, never remove your eye from him; and if he gets forward but *one* step, thunder out at him: if the birds get up by reason of it, not so much as point your gun, but hasten to him, and make him down as before, &c. &c. This duly observed, will give ample satisfaction, and he may be taken into mixed company. In case of nonconformity, treat him as before, and all will be well in one day's hunting, I am very confident.

One thing more, to give the finishing stroke. As soon as you have shot, get every dog in close to your foot, paying no sort of regard to what birds go away. Give good

words and reward separately. Two or three citations will settle this point also. Suppose, by rating at the dogs, you lose half a score shots; or, if it were *fifty*, it is better than suffering them to trot and saunter about, whilst you are loading your piece—when, in a fortnight's time, they will fool up more than the number I have mentioned, and for ever go on in the same way. There is, besides, a great beauty, as well as secret satisfaction, in being surrounded by half a dozen obedient faithful servants. And nothing could put me more out of humour, than a person's eyeing over my game-bag or pockets, whilst I have been calling over the roll con, as intent upon discipline,

as he on his belly. We see, therefore, the impropriety of putting young dogs to a fellow, who is paid by the head. *Point* or *spring*, if he can but *kill*, all is well—the dog is quite complete—and the contents of fustian are a *probatum est*. I have actually seen dogs thus circumstanced, in the second year's hunting, that would not, *singly*, endure three minutes. Long strides, and something worse, to get within compass! I have been out with a number of such as were called *shotsmen*, but never saw *five good sportsmen* in my life.

Wherever a bird gets up—swack we go, without any regard to decency; or indeed, the safety of

our next neighbour. For my own part, I am always in fear with strangers, especially *slaughtermen*.. A singed wig gives an offensive smell: and a man's nose of any reputable length, is in danger at every cross shot.

A dog that will but *stand steady*, is sufficient for *most*, though of town-top stamp. *Some* require action withal, but will dispense with regularity in beating. Many I have heard, asking where the dog was?—and a trio of enquiry—who saw him last? Let him go on his own way, says one—if he finds, he will stand for ever. Another tells you, he hates to see a dog

always at heel. They very often pick up a bird in an unlikely place, &c. &c. I must think, half the Pointers hunt as much ground without, as with, reason. Mere prostitution of goodness! that should be nursed and reserved for spots of certainty, or apparent probability. How have I seen vigorous gallopers racing over lands that would barely conceal an ant! and, with such as are *called* sportsmen. Before the arrival at the appointed place, many valuable dogs have been suffered to abuse themselves by driving on and crossing the horses, bespattered and discoloured, scarce to be known. Such neglects as these are unpardonable beyond eighteen. A dog is worn up in half the time,

every body will admit. With all the strictness of attention, the very best broken will sometimes give you the slip; especially (for they certainly take notice and advantage of it) if engaged in a chain of chat. *Dum loquimur, fugerit,* is not a remark of myself only; I may venture to pronounce *cæteris paribus*—the dog that beats his ground the truest, will find the most game.

Never turn your back upon a hunting dog, or allow him to leave the field without you.

Never suffer a dog to stir without word or signal.

Where number will admit, compose your day by the scale of tempers; meek with meek, *pares cum paribus*, &c.

Choose such names as are not likely to clash with others that may occasionally join you—and *all* remote amongst your own. The more oddity, the more pleasantry.

Never take out a dog from his paramour: or whilst any charge, ointment, or any external application is operating; in which cases, the very best will blunder, through foulness of nose.

SPRINGING SPANIEL.

THIS useful little creature, whose chief business lies in covert, must nevertheless be entered in the open field, any time after eight months old, in the sporting season—the sooner from that age, the better. The preparatory lesson is—teaching him to fetch, which requires no great art; only pricking into a ball or little cushion, half a dozen of old needles, transversely, of a proper length to admit his gathering it up, and yet chastise an intemperate gripe. When perfect in this—stick in some feathers, the softer plumage of pheasant, partridge, or woodcock; and reward him after three or four times—never teazing

and tiring him with boyish repetitions.

The advantage of this qualification shews itself by the numerous losses of game in thick shooting, (especially if only winged) where a dog will seldom go to it, after the first enjoyment: and a sportsman may grubble away an hour to no purpose.

This initiation at home, will bring him under some command, so as to go upon the search, when bidden—to turn or come back, when directed or called—and to bring when he has found, in expectation of his reward—which, I think, is more than *half*, in the breaking any kind of dog.

In the field, under your eye, you may keep him within compass—get him off from foul haunts of vermin, &c. But, the chief point is—having him at hand; which cannot be effected in covert, where he would be out of sight in a trice, entertaining himself with blackbirds or viler game.

When he is reclaimed from mean and idle pursuits, by seeing game fall to him, break him from chasing, as under the direction for Setter and Pointer. What I mean by open field, is not stubble, grass, turnips, &c.; but *hedge-rows* only, in contradistinction to continued coverts of many acres. The Spaniel has no right to range abroad from the

fence, unless by a particular avocation. Where game is first found, it will again be sought for. Therefore, endeavour to introduce him to pheasants, after their morning's feed, when they mostly covet bushes for shelter, unless the stubbles are very stout, or shaded by fern.

If that species of game is but rare, find some partridges, and drive into hedges, which are their general refuge, when scattered and weakened by a second flight. Then immediately apply the Spaniel, whilst the scent is hot, and he will out with them fast enough; and by killing a brace or two to him, three or four times, he will try afterwards at every

muse, and rush in any where, at the point of finger or gun.

One thing farther to be remedied, is—getting through fence, and running out of bounds. A bird or a pheasant frequently drops by the side of a fence; and for want of a proper reception, runs through, keeping on foot to a considerable distance, before it squats. In such case, he will up with it, being eager and full of spirit, not knowing but he does right. As the eye cannot follow his motions, unless he gives tongue, information must be gained by the ear. A bell must therefore be put on his neck; and if you find him too quick, call to him sharply;

and if he springs beyond compass of shoot, correct him smartly. The greatest excellence in a Spaniel, is to hunt on the opposite side within bounds; as by that means, the game is in a manner forced by the springing push, to break in your favour. When once he is tractable in sight, on your *own* side, he will soon become so on the *other;* because you hear his distance almost with the same precision, as though you *really* saw him. A due attention to him, enables you to check with so much propriety, that he will think himself under actual inspection. When there is a *companion,* the bell may be laid aside: and indeed I can see but little comfort or diversion in cock-shooting,

without one; as the bird mostly strikes over the fence before it is got to a decent length.

To a person who goes by *tale* and *pay*, no matter which way, if it does but make *one*, either in the *whole* or in *parts*. But I had rather game should go away, for an after-chance of another day, than to blow it up, only to say—I have killed it.

There are many Spaniels that bush very freely, yet hesitate at furze; which seems to imply, that *that* kind of covert ought to be the *first* school for a young dog, at the time of evening or morning feed: or, at least, *early* and *frequent*

visits should be made to it. Pheasants will run off at any little noise, when fed: footing it away a furlong or two to their hold, where the Spaniel may be put on the retrieve as close as you like. And if a brace, or more, were admitted, they would encourage each other to press on more vigorously.

For *large* tracts, a number of Spaniels is necessary to give a general disturbance, and force the game to the extremities, when all but a brace should be taken up, being, in my opinion, sufficient for the attention of two guns.

Break from hares, or you do nothing. Let all dogs be kennelled

at night, and muzzled; which will prevent their giving any disturbance to a family, fighting amongst themselves, or gathering up poison, or any noxious mixture, that the malevolent or idle may toss over the pale.

These rules, strictly adhered to, will, I hope, fully answer the desires and expectations of every gentleman.

THEORY OF GUN-BARRELS.

When I first turned my thoughts to this subject, I flattered myself to have brought it to a science, with a great deal of ease. Plausibilities so striking, and necessary consequences thence so evident, from which, others so rationally deducible, that I really thought to have had a barrel of a gun as much in my power, either to hasten or check it in its operation, as I have my pony. I do ingenuously acknowledge, that, at trial, I was entirely disappointed and deceived. Theory had flowed in so fast, that it was suffocated in its own stream.

I made application to a gentleman, having, by his eminence in this art acquired a bouncing fortune in a crack, and retired without flaw, who assured me, that it was not in the power of any man living to finish two barrels alike. He recommends an increase of diameter at the base, as a chamber for the powder, which *gradually* hastens to the diameter of the grand cylinder, and enlarges again a very trifle, about four inches from the muzzle. As I am not able to instruct, I am not willing to amuse, or impose on the reader, as speciously as I am imposed on myself.

INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUNG SPORTSMEN, &c.

WHAT a man excels in, he will be fond of—and what any man is fond of, he will endeavour to excel in. If he should be disappointed, and not arrive at a tolerable degree of perfection; or, in better English, not make a laudable proficiency—the grapes grow sour—impotency belies and gorgonizes the features, and alienates the passion to some other object. This is the reason that many have assigned for their not being sociable in the field with their dog and gun; that they find

they can make no hand of it, (in the common phrase) *and so give it up for goods.* For the sake of those who would be, and of those who want a companion in a morning, the following instructions are confidently given, to rekindle desire, scourge doubt with conviction, and train a man out of himself, to make him become his proper self. At the beginning of this treatise, I put hunting into the chair, and do not here intend to justle: but, if I pay the complement—that I admire what I have not courage to enjoy, I hope I may, without offence, own that shooting is my favourite diversion. The dialect of my inclinations has altered with my years:

and the sentimental character of twenty-five, is scarce legible at fifty-two. The mind is inverted, and synchronises with the figures.

The art is, *tota teres atque rotunda*, wrapped up in one single word—

PATIENCE.

I heard a gentleman once *(who shoots at every thing)* cry out in raptures, at his killing a partridge—ΕΥΡΗΚΑ—*Patience is all.* As it was but a chick, it fell *dead*—and an exact mensuration being made upon the spot, from foot to feather, the distance was found to be three

hundred and ninety-six inches, or thirty-three feet; which is eleven yards, according to the English computation, allowing thirty-six inches, or three feet, to the yard.

A thought now offers. Suppose —if instead of the maker's bawling from every quarter of his piece, the lock was his only barker, and some short motto, *apropos*, on the barrel, in lieu of A. B., London, fecit. *Festina lente—Sat cito, si sat bene;* or the like, might be a pretty, easy, and also a cautionary legend, in the hand of an heir apparent: who, by frequently blowing it into English, to such as never saw Busby's chair, might keep

alive the classic fire—give presage of future greatness—and become as awful to men who have no sense, as ridiculous to those that have.

But, *ad rem.* The gentleman who killed his bird eleven yards, thought he had given it due time. It may therefore be presumed, that, in the *general*, he shot at much shorter distances; which is the case with *most*, if not all young sportsmen. I know some that shoot not badly, yet are too near akin to *slap at 'em;* the consequence of which prevents the thanks of our friend, who is teased, and thrown back at a critical moment, by picking out feathers and lead.

A good sportsman kills his birds *clean*, as it is termed, if he has room—but, *at best*, *one* bird taken in a net, *by day*, is worth five shot ones. That a blind man should become a marksman, is not very probable: but I have heard of a gentleman, who never saw far before him, that would beat down a deal of game. That *this* art, therefore, is attainable, as well as other, is manifest.

It would be pointing the finger at common sense, to observe, that shots are spread more at forty yards than at fifteen; and that therefore the chance for *kill* is proportionably greater. The only thing wanted,

is—*patience*, to wait till a bird has described that, or a farther, distance. He that never fires, I have remarked, never kills. It is not for such legitimates of *Saturn* I open budget, but for the sons of *Mercury*, who fire too fast, as well as swear; to the great loss of shot—and, what is of more weight.

That an over desire to kill, is the very means to prevent it, experience laments; but cannot, in the common method, correct. He readily admits the *improbability;* but—fondly insists on *possibility;* and so—fires away, *in hopes.*

Let the young sportsman set forth with every appendage but (what

he thinks hard should be left behind) *powder* and *shot;* a piece of stiff sole leather may represent the flint, to spare the face of the hammer. When a bird gets up, he is certain he cannot kill it; therefore can wait to any length, till he gets it at the end of his gun. He must *never* draw, unless *positive* of seeing the bird in that very *point* of situation.—Let it go—every fresh spring of a bird will make him more composed; and, as the tremor wears off, he will grow more uniform in his manner of getting to it: till at last, he will cover it almost to a certainty, at, or very near, the same distance. Let him accustom himself not to take his gun from

his arm till the bird is on wing; and never to vary his eye from the very one he first fixed upon. Three words should mentally be used, with a pause between, before he puts his piece to shoulder. This will keep him, as it were, in awe of *himself;* and as there is no charm in any particular combination of letters at this time—Hold—halt—now—may serve as well as any. A day thus spent—he may put some powder into the pan, and flash away in that manner, the next; pursuing the former directions, till he can stare with stedfastness, and pull without a wink. The day following—load with powder *only;* and to continue this lesson, two

or three days, more or less, till he is calm as if the leather was yet in the chaps. Now—the *grand*, and *last* trial—*complete loading*.—If he feels any flutter, or anxiety, on his advance to the point, let him draw his shot at once; nay, powder also, before he goes up to his dog; and repeat *this toties quoties*, till he has whipped himself into good temper, and disappointed himself into the accomplishment of his wishes. In cross shooting—if a bird goes to the *left*, step forward with the *right* foot—and the contrary, if to the *right* hand. This removes at once the complaint often made, of not killing so well *one* way as the *other*. Shoot at the head

in every direction, if possible; and I cannot see any necessity for greater allowance. In elevation, let the front of the guard be a stop for the gripe of the left hand; in which situation, if the barrel should burst, it will not be so liable to be injured: and the thumb being erect, an avenue is artificially made, by means of its corresponding with the cock-nail, that gives great direction to the eye. I hope all this appears rational and convincing.

Mr. Page's pendulum (be it barn-door, or band-box) cannot be supposed to have that *same sudden* effect on the nerves and passions, as *life itself*. I verily believe, I could

look at such an object, a considerable time without any palpitations; yet the unexpected flutter of game might make me start. In short, that is the only moment a poor bird can hope to bribe in.—Some may understand me, here; many will not. The vibrations of swing-swang, and the whirl of a partridge, are as different in their powers, to move and affect the senses, as a spit and a surloin, to a man that is in earnest, at *two*. VIVE VALEQUE.

FINIS.

A RECIPE

For Strain or Shoulder-slip in Horse or Dog.

ASSAFŒTIDA—common pitch—Burgundy ditto—resin galbanum—common turpentine—frankincense—oil of bayes—equal quantities. Mix and melt these; and when coolish, add euphorbium and cantharides, half the quantity. Mix well, and flock it with tow and a salamander, or hot fire-shovel.

N. B.—Half an ounce of the first eight, and a quarter of an ounce of the two last, is sufficient for sinew-strain or shoulder-slip, and so in proportion.

This receipt is worth a guinea to any sportsman or farmer.